

A tram to Botany ran off the line at B.

called for a statement of how the losses were made up for the last balance sheet, a book was produced in which the entries were entered. He examined each case, and pointed out that the losses in two cases was much understated. He asked for an explanation, and this was given in the following manner: "The clerk who had made the entries said that he had made them made them out on slips of paper and showed them to Mr. Donahy, the assistant cashier. He said that he was sure, he could not afford to show them to the cashier, for he would have incurred a great loss in the balance sheet. Other losses were left out altogether in order to keep the amount down." The statements of this kind need no comment. The situation has to be viewed in another aspect. In July last, the association being in difficulties, a sum of £175,000 was borrowed from certain trust companies, the mortgages of the borrowing members being pledged as

drawn from the bank on similar terms. Colonel TEMPLETON stigmatises this as one of the most improper transactions that it has ever been his lot to investigate. It is securities, he contends, should not have been pledged, but should have been held for the safety of the depositors, to whom the large sum of \$340,000 is owing. The amount which should be included in the demand of the association opened his doors to-morrow to \$287,000, and the whole of the deposits could be claimed within twelve months. The association cannot meet these demands, and unless time is given the assets will be sacrificed. Under any circumstances, the prospects of those who have invested money in the association do not appear to be very bright. The

unsatisfactory. What action is to be taken in the interests of the shareholders and depositors will probably be determined at meeting which has been called for this evening.

The disclosures that have been made in connection with this affair are of a very serious character, but still there is something to be thankful for. It would have been a surprise if the suspicion had been that the Premier Association had been a menace amongst the building societies of Melbourne, but nothing of the sort appears to have taken place. It was recognised from the first, we are told, that "the eccentricities of the society were confined to itself," and confident therefore as we are in no way disturbed. The reason for this must be that the shareholders and

dependence in the management. If the management can be depended on, an investor may place his savings in a building society without hesitation. The history of these institutions in the Australian colonies shows very few cases of misfortune or disaster, while the value of building societies in encouraging thrift amongst the population cannot be regarded as inelastic. The basis upon which these associations rest is sound enough, and no evil is likely to come to them so long as they are properly conducted and their operations confined to legitimate business. The misfortunes of the Premier Society have been caused entirely by the extraordinary proceedings of the management.

perservative journal representing the capitalists of the mother country should insist in the hue and cry which has lately been raised against the colonies by certain of the financial journals. To a just criticism of the colonial borrowing policy no objection can be taken. A true statement of the condition of the colonies cannot hurt them. When we are paying 4 per cent. for our money, we are held that the price ought to be lower, and now that we are paying $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., we are told that we are paying too much. Leaving regard to the magnitude of the assets which represent our debt. If the British capitalists lend the Imperial Government money at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., they will give it to us at less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. And as, despite the opposition of

borrowing rate was reduced from 5 to 3 per cent, and since then to 3½ per cent, there can be no doubt that in time it will be reduced still nearer to the rate paid on the English National Debt. The borrowing policy of the colonies is in a sense based on a system of State Socialism. The State here is the proprietor of the railways, telegraphs, and other public works, and in the public interest, the development of the resources of the continent, it borrows the necessary money for their construction. Of all the colonies Victoria has been the most circumspect in her public loan policy, for more than any of them she had had her public works reproductive of the interest on the capital spent in their construction. The present criticism is, therefore,

neighbours. But it is due to the fact that a new loan is now required by them. The brokers who have not yet settled their allotment of the last stock are very sore, and consequently irritable; and they have varied means of showing their feeling. It will not be long before the stock on which there is some force in the attack on the protectionist policy of Victoria, which leads to the cancellation of interests in Melbourne, and the effect of starving the country districts of their labour. Only the other day we were told that the population of Melbourne had reached 430,000, which is at a total of about 1,150,000 is disproportionately large. It is perfectly true that the State policy in encouraging the people to enter on artificial industries in Melbourne is responsible for an undue

been to create unhealthy speculation and to debauch the colonial character. As the borrowing policy has no necessary connection with the protectionist policy.

Yesterday's cable giving the substance of something *Le Temps* has to say about the *recidiviste* question, will surprise most people who take it literally. The same paper says that Australian records of an influx of convicts from New Zealand are unfounded; only thirty-two have escaped in the past fifteen years, and

of these sixteen have been captured and extradited. Australian readers will be disinclined to accept this, and the wonder is that a responsible journal should have committed itself to such a statement. It has either been made in ignorance of what Australian colonists complain of, or in the light of insufficient official information, and in either case it is directly contrary to the actual facts of the matter as we know them. The Queensland papers are continually telling their readers of escaped New Caledonian prisoners, and our own papers of criminal courts are not by any means innocent of their existence. Quite recently the COLONIAL SECRETARY made a statement to the effect that there are now about 800 recidivists known to be scattered up and down the colonies, and the feeling on the Eastern seaboard on the subject is decidedly not based on sentiment alone. Only the other day Mr. FOCACRON, a New Caledonian, a Brisbane telegraph in the same issue in which the extract from *Le Temps* appeared informed us that six more convicts from the French penal settlement have just been identified in this city. In our Brisbane telegraph of this morning it was stated that six of the ten escapees now in the Brisbane gaol were brought before the magistrate, and ordered to be handed over to the French authorities. One of these men had escaped four times from a penal settlement, another seven times, another three times, and each of the others twice. In the face of these facts the Paris journal is distinctly at fault. The most plausible explanation of this very extraordinary blunder is perhaps to be sought in the circumstances of New Caledonian penal discipline. There are two broadly-defined classes of convicts there—the more serious offenders, who are chiefly confined to the Ile Nou, or only taken there from labour in gangs under armed supervision, and returned to their prison at the close of each day, and the *libérés*. The latter have leave to work for hire, and other privileges. They are not of the more violent order of criminals, or, if sent out as such originally, they have earned a relaxation of their conditions by good conduct. Probably only the former class is made up of convicts in ease, and if the remarks of *Le Temps* refer to the *cradés* of this class, they may or may not be justifiable by strict fact. But these technical distinctions, so to speak, have very little practical interest for Australia. What colonists are concerned about is the arrival of convicts from any recidivists at all. Some of the *libérés* have committed serious and even capital offences. In Australia eyes and ears are not of the more violent order of criminals, and they will continue to object to the influx of this element, notwithstanding the more or less authentic figures of *Le Temps*.

His Excellency Lord Carrington may be expected to arrive here on Sunday next by the R.M.S. *Alameda*, from Auckland.

Some weeks ago the news was cable to this journal that Canon Sumner Smith had signified his willingness to refer the existing dispute as to the validity of his election to the see of Sydney to the Bishop of Goulburn and the Dean of Sydney, the former being the senior bishop and the latter representing the diocese of Sydney. Quite recently letters confirming this cable were received by the Bishop of Goulburn and the Dean, and after perusing the same they cabled home to the reverend gentlemen, advising him to withdraw his acceptance of the bishopric of Sydney. Canon Smith has acted on this advice, and withdrawn his acceptance of the bishopric in order that steps may be taken to remove the present deadlock in connection with the election of the see. It is understood that no action will be taken until the intelligence received by cable and published in our issue of the 4th instant is confirmed by letters from Canon Smith. As soon as the Bishop and Dean receive these letters a meeting of the Synod will be called and steps taken to remove the deadlock.

Lord Forster, the eldest son of the Earl of Carnarvon, who is on a tour of the colonies, and has just completed a visit to Melbourne, was entertained by the Mayor at the Town Hall yesterday morning. Among the guests were Sir John Robertson, Messrs. Halliday, Walker, and R. H. D. White, M.L.C., and a number of the aldermen. To-day Mr. Burdick has arranged for a picnic down the harbour, and has invited upwards of 30 ladies and gentlemen. Lord Forster leaves Sydney on Saturday for Hongkong.

The English mail steamer *London*, 27th December, 1889, by sea route, arrived at Sydney, 1890, via Italy, per P. and O. Company's steamer *Shannon*, will be due to-morrow (Saturday) in time for delivery at about 2 p.m. Mails for *Alameda* may be expected to be delivered on Monday morning.

The R.M.S. *Orizaba*, due here to-day, brings a clean bill of health, and Captain Leake, who was mentioned the other day, after one of the most successful voyages he has made—not a few to New South Wales. As the *Orizaba* left home in the dead of winter, the passenger list was somewhat less full than usual. In the *Orizaba* there is a large number of passengers for Mediterranean and Egyptian ports, as well as for India. Amongst the latter was the Earl of Cavendish. The calling at Algiers appears to have an attraction for travellers, and the *Orizaba* had some 150 passengers, and of these there were 68 for Australia. There was a good deal of untoward weather encountered during the voyage from the commencement to the arrival at Melbourne. The steamer, in the shape of mutual and other entertainments, were successfully carried on whenever opportunity offered.

On Sunday afternoon next the inward-bound mail steamer *Alameda* may be expected to reach Sydney from Auckland. The steamer's date is:—New York, January 8th; San Francisco, 15th; Honolulu, 22nd; Tutuila (Samoa), 29th; and Auckland, the 5th current. There are about a hundred passengers for this port. Should Captain Moore be favoured by particularly good weather the steamer may be looked for about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. It is intended to berth the *Alameda* at Covey Wharf in Woolloomooloo Bay.

One of the subjects considered in Cabinet on Monday, December 23, was, as we are informed, the extension of the accommodation provided for the inmates. It is understood that in regard to the requirements of the colony in this respect the attention of Ministers has been directed to an estate at Goulburn, on which stand buildings that might be made suitable for an asylum, an agricultural college, and a technical college. The estate, which is owned by Captain Rossi, is very extensive, and its situation and surroundings are highly desirable. It is in high terms of praise. It was suggested recently by Sir Henry Parkes, and by it is believed, Dr. Manning. Both gentlemen have, it is said, much impressed with the desirability of obtaining it for the Government. It is not improbable that the Colonial Treasurer will visit the site. Professor Funder, who is now making a tour of the country with a view to reporting upon sites suitable for the establishment of an agricultural college, as well as to glean other information that will

be of service to the Government in respect to the creation of the Department of Agriculture, will in due course visit Goulburn, and while there will probably make a survey of Captain Rossi's estate.

At yesterday's meeting of the Public Works Committee, additional evidence was taken on the proposed railway from Grafton to the Tweed. Dr. Garrahan, Mr. Garrahan, and Mr. Dowe were appointed a special committee to take evidence and report with reference to the proposed railway from Moss Vale to Robertson, and it is probable they will leave for that vicinity to-day.

Arrangements for the officers attached to the Sub-Department of Agriculture will be provided in the Mines office. Mr. Anderson, director of the new branch, will commence his duties on Monday. The appointment of other officers is now being considered by the Minister for Mines, and will shortly be determined.

The name of the newly-appointed registrar of the Land Court was wrongly given yesterday as Mr. John Thomas King instead of Mr. John Thomas Keating. Mr. Keating secured the position through his extensive knowledge of the country, and of the administration and procedure in the courts under both the new and the old Land Act. He has an all-round capacity and excellent business qualities. The first sitting of the Court will probably be held on the 21st March.

Mr. CARPENTERS, Minister for Education, devoted yesterday to the inspection of a further batch of the public schools within the city and suburbs. Accompanied by Dr. Morris and Mr. Kemp, he visited the institutions at Waverley, Randwick, Woolahra, Paddington, Darlinghurst, Castleknock, Williamstown, and Port Jackson. A thorough examination was made of the classes in working order. The buildings themselves were inspected, especially as to their sanitary arrangements, and where necessary instructions for improvements were given. To the present Mr. Carpenters has visited some 44 schools, in which there are an average of from twenty-five to thirty teachers and scholars.

A notification is arranged to wait upon the Minister of Works at half-past 2 o'clock to-day, from the *British Council*, re the Government roads in the district.

At the Metropolitan Quarter Sessions yesterday, before Acting District Judge Gibson, "Jury," an Indian hawker, was found guilty of attempted robbery, and sentenced to be imprisoned for the term of six months. He was charged with the attempt on the premises of the Pitt-street Bath at night, was sentenced to nine months imprisonment, with hard labour. The remainder of the day was occupied with the trial of Victor Archibald, on charges of forgery and uttering receipts by means of which the Anglo-Australian Investment, Finance and Land Company was defrauded of £70. The accused was defended by Mr. G. H. Reid, and after some hours had been spent in investigating books of account, comparisons of handwriting, and so forth, the jury retired soon after 6 o'clock, and after an hour and a half's absence returned a verdict of guilty, with a recommendation to mercy on account of the prisoner's youth. Sentence was deferred.

The annual meeting of the subscribers to the Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home was held last night at the residence of Mr. Henry Solomon, presided over a good attendance. The report showed that since its opening there had been 11 inmates of the home, and that the present number of inmates was 8. Officers were appointed for the ensuing year, a vote of thanks was accorded to the meeting.

The annual meeting of the Sydney Sallow Home was held at the institution yesterday, Sir William Manning, the president, being in the chair. The report, which was of a favourable character, was adopted. The financial statement showed a credit balance of £2029 18s. 3d. The division of the institution inspected the home and found every part of it clean and orderly. There are at present 60 sailors staying at the home.

At a special meeting of the committee of the Parramatta District Hospital, held on Wednesday, the state of the finances was discussed at length. It was anticipated that the expenses would this year be greater than those of last year, and a sum of £200 would have to be collected. In view of the fact that many of the country hospitals received special endowments last year, it was suggested that application be made to the Government for a grant, but eventually the matter was postponed.

A summary of the newspapers of the Boroughs of St. Leonard, East St. Leonard, and Victoria was last night held at the School of Arts, North Shore, for the purpose of considering the proposed amalgamation of these three boroughs. There was a large attendance, and the meeting unanimously decided in favour of amalgamation.

A report was given at North Shore last night by the justices of the Peace to Mr. B. L. D.M. in order to commemorate the opening of the new Court-house in the district. There was a fair number present, including Messrs. Dibbs, Burns, and Cullen, M.L.A. The health of the court was drunk with the customary honours, and Mr. Lee suitably replied.

The directors of the Molong Shires of Iron, Paint, Pigment, and Ochre Company invited several gentlemen connected with mining and members of the press to the Brisbane Café, George-street, yesterday afternoon, when a full explanation of the operations of the company was given. The company has been on view, and there were also illustrations of the process of the paint manufacture. It was explained that the ore is found in a mining lease of 40 acres near Molong. In its state it is red, white, and pink. By burning it takes the form of deep brown. The examples shown upon wood seemed equal to imported paint. By simply grinding the ore and mixing with water, it can be used for distemper, and by mixing with oil it forms a proper paint. For export the ore should pay well, and the paint, if used locally, could, it is thought, be sold at nearly half the price of the imported article. The specimens produced yesterday were minutely examined, the work done was pronounced satisfactory, and it was generally agreed that the company had a prosperous future before it.

With regard to the stock sales at Flemington, a correspondent writes complaining of the undue waste of time which occurs, owing to the manner in which some of the auctioneers carry out their work. He states that some of the sellers, who have a complete knowledge of value, get through their work with expedition, whilst others prolong the sales to such an undue extent that the purchasers grow tired of waiting. This state of affairs is regarded by buyers, he says, as unjust, and it is contemplated to take steps next week towards bringing about a reform in this direction.

A CORRESPONDENT gives some interesting information with regard to the farmers in his district. He states that there is certainly plenty of scope for the employment of labour, if only some of the farmers would use a little more head. He instances a case in which a farmer had drawn water to supply his family, a distance of a mile every day, for the last 12 years. Our correspondent points out that it would have been much more economical for the farmer to make a well, and he considers that our farmers certainly badly want instruction, to enable them to co-operate with the outside world.

The secretary of the Australian Land League informs us that it was Mr. John Waine, one of the executive, and Mr. J. J. Waine, one of the first resolution at the meeting of the Australian Land League held on Wednesday evening.

Five boats will supply and arrange for calling for fresh orders for the contract for laying water pipes in the suburban districts during the remainder of the year.

The band of the Permanent Artillery, under direction of Bandmaster Devery, will perform in Ry Park this afternoon.

Two bands of the New South Wales Volunteer Artillery, under Bandmaster Hiley, will play in Hyde Park on Saturday, at 2 p.m.

The French Navy. (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Feb. 6.

France intends to build, next year, 10 ironclads and 11 cruisers, besides many torpedo boats.

CABLEGRAMS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE IMPERIAL AND COLONIAL INSTITUTES.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

The projected fusion of the Royal Colonial Institute with the Imperial Institute of the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and India remains for the present in abeyance until the Imperial Institute shall have attained a more advanced stage.

THE WOOL MARKET.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

The wool sales are proceeding with unchanged prices, but a better spirit is evinced in the bidding.

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR IN EUROPE.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

The Emperor William has directed Prince Bismarck to invite the Powers to send representatives to a conference which shall consider the means whereby the questions connected with the present condition of labour in Europe may be arranged.

Feb. 6.

The Emperor William declares his firm resolve to ameliorate the condition of the working-classes throughout the Empire. He will try to modify international competition in labour, and will use his utmost efforts to promote peace between employers and employed. The Emperor expressed his regret that he did not possess England's countless millions to promote German colonisation.

The personal interest taken by the Emperor in the welfare of the labouring classes in Germany has caused a great sensation in Berlin.

VISIT OF A PROMINENT IRISH NATIONALIST.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

Mr. E. Dwyer Gray, of the *Freeman's Journal*, Lord Mayor of Dublin during last year, and a prominent Irish Nationalist, purposes visiting Australia.

THE EXTRADITION OF ALLPRESS.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

The police will apply on Saturday for the extradition of Charles Rivers Allpress (the absconding bank accountant) to Melbourne, to be there dealt with.

THE AUSTRALIAN HORSE RINGMASTER.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

Mr. J. Wilson's brother Ringmaster, by First King from Yardley, has declared forfeit for the Northamptonshire Stakes, City and Suburban Handicap, Great Metropolitan Stakes, and Chester Cup.

THE VICTORIAN ESTATES BANK.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

It is announced that Messrs. W. T. Cairne, M.P., David Beath, and R. D. Peetles are appointed directors of the new Estates Bank of Victoria.

SHEEP-SHEARING APPARATUS.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

An exhibition in London of Mr. F. Y. Wolesey's patent for shearing sheep by machinery instead of hand-power has been a great success.

THE CHARGES AGAINST MR. BENZON.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

The subsidiary charges preferred against Mr. Ernest Benzon have been settled. It is expected that a light sentence will be passed upon him in connection with the charge of forgery.

DEATH OF SIR EDWARD WARD.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

The death is announced of Sir Edward Wolstonholme Ward, K.C.M.G., late master of the Sydney and Melbourne mails.

THE SAMOAN TREATY.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

The Senate of the United States has ratified the Samoan Treaty by 38 votes to 12.

SCHEME OF COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

An influential conference largely of a scholastic nature has been held in London, at which a resolution was passed warmly approving of the scheme of commercial education propounded by the London Chamber of Commerce.

THE SILVER CURRENCY IN AMERICA.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

A Pan-American Congress has been convened to consider a proposal to adopt silver coins common to all American countries.

A GERMAN IMPERIAL LOAN.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

A German Imperial loan of 130,000,000 marks (about £5,000,000) will be issued on the 14th instant.

THE FRENCH FLAGSHIP IN THE PACIFIC.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

The corvette *Victorieuse* has been commissioned by the French naval authorities to replace the *Dubouddin*, the French flagship in the Pacific, which was reported to have broken down.

THE FRENCH NAVY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Feb. 6.

France intends to build, next year, 10 ironclads and 11 cruisers, besides many torpedo boats.

ENGLAND AND PORTUGAL.

REPORTED BRITISH OCCUPATION OF THE TERRITORY IN DISPUTE.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Feb. 6.

The Lisbon reports with regard to the proposed holding of a conference to settle the differences between England and Portugal are now denied.

Feb. 6.

It is reported that the Marquis of Salisbury is making preparations for the immediate occupation by England of the Makololo country and the Upper Shire region in South-East Africa.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Feb. 6.

At the luncheon which followed the ceremony of launching the *Persian*, one of the cruisers designed for Australia, Sir Graham Berry, Agent-General for Victoria, made reference to the question of Australian Federation. He said he believed that federation is being gradually and surely brought about.

Feb. 6.

Sir Graham Berry considers that the Federation Conference now being held in Melbourne will certainly secure federation and a system of mutual defence.

AUSTRALIAN BORROWING.

THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE PESSIMISTIC.

THE CONDITION OF VICTORIA.

THE SLOW DEBAUCHERY OF NATIONAL CHARACTER.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Feb. 6.

The *St. James's Gazette* is publishing a series of articles dealing with the subject of the financial and general position of the Australian colonies in relation to English capitalists.

An article published to-day states that the borrowings of all the Australian colonies have been used in order to foster what is neither more nor less than a system of State socialism, which dominates the whole fabric, and influences equally credit, speculation, rent, and wages.

Especially, it is declared, is this the case in Victoria, where such loan obtained serves to cause a surface prosperity and inflation only. Upon the strength of her former reputation Victoria has secured the favour of British capitalists to herself. Her policy has led to the centralisation of her interests in Melbourne, and this has starved the country districts of their population and labour. Thus the industries peculiar to the rural portions of the colony have been, perforce, neglected owing to the inability of capitalists to hire labour for their enterprises at such wages as to leave a profit. As the result, continues the article, Victoria is suffering from unhealthy speculation and the slow debauchery of her national character.

FURTHER TROUBLE AT THE DOCKS.

THE WOOL WAREHOUSES AND THEIR MEN.

ABOLITION OF MASTER LIGHTER-MEN.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Feb. 6.

A small strike has taken place amongst the wool-labourers employed in the docks, the men demanding the abolition of "exertion money" and the concession of higher payment for piecework than that now given, owing to the system of employing temporary piecemen. The unionists are also irritated by the refusal of the dockmasters to discharge non-unionists.

The dockers are debating whether they should not abolish the pay for mealtimes which was recently gained, provided that pay is increased so as to form an equivalent.

The Red Lion Wharf, South Dock, has looked out its men for refusing to load Hayes's vans.

The labourers at five of the largest wool warehouses will come out on strike on Saturday next unless they are conceded the terms of the September general agreement. The officials of the Lightermen's Union are assisting the men.

Lafone, Scrutton, and other wharfingers have formed a co-operative union, with a capital of £40,000, to undertake lighterage in the port of London, thus abolishing the master lightermen.

THE NEW DOCK DIFFICULTY.

THE EMPLOYERS' UNION.

THE DOCKERS' LEADERS DEFIANT.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Feb. 6.

Thirty-five out of a total of 120 wharfs on the Thames have joined the newly-formed Employers' Union. The leaders of the dockers are showing a defiant attitude towards the employers.

MILNER'S SAFES.

Milner's Patent Safe and Fire-resisting Safe and Strongroom Doors. John Kemp and Son, agents, King and Clarence streets.—(ADV.)

TERRIBLE COLLIERY EXPLOSION IN WALES.

THREE HUNDRED MINERS ENTOMBED.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Feb. 6.

A fearful colliery explosion has occurred in a mine at Newport, South Wales. Three hundred miners are entombed.

THE AUSTRALIAN AUXILIARY SQUADRON.

LAUNCH OF THE SECOND CRUISER.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Feb. 6.

The cruiser *Persian*, the second vessel of the Australian Auxiliary Squadron, has been launched at Elswick, Lady Berry, wife of the Victorian Agent-General, performing the ceremony of naming, as Lady Samuel did at the launch of the former vessel.

THE AUSTRALIAN DIVORCE QUESTION.

EXHAUSTIVE INQUIRY BY THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Feb. 6.

Mr. William Shiels, M.L.A., is in communication with the Colonial Office in reference to the Victorian Divorce Extension Bill. The Colonial Office is inquiring into the whole question of the colonial divorce laws, and is devoting extensive care to the consideration of the proposed legislation. The several proposed bills entered on behalf of religious bodies in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia against the extension of facilities for divorce in these colonies are also under the attention of the Colonial Office, which is being advised in regard to the legal aspects of the matter by the Right Hon. Lord Halsbury, Lord Chancellor, and Sir Richard Everard Webster, Q.C., M.P., Attorney-General in the present Ministry. With these eminent lawyers Mr. Shiels also is in conference.

The Agents-General for the principal colonies interested will interview Lord Knutsford next week in relation to the subject.

Mr. Shiels leaves for Melbourne by the P. and O. steamer *Victoria*.

DIFFICULTY IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MILITIA.

RESIGNATION OF ALL THE CAPTAINS.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ADELPHIDE, THURSDAY.

Affairs in connection with the South Australian militia are a very serious affair. Up till Wednesday, February 5, there had been a vacancy for a major of the Third Battalion, recently created, and which was commanded by Colonel Lovey, late of the Volunteer force. Official intimations have now been made that the appointment has been given to Major J. B. Blair, late a major in the Volunteer force. Some time ago Blair was a volunteer captain, and ranked as junior to the militia captains. When he became major in the Volunteers, he ranked as senior to them, but while he was connected with the Volunteers, the matter did not concern the militia. On taking a senior commission in the militia, however, all the captains were much aggrieved, and have forwarded their resignations to one of the colonels. The resignations have been held back by Major-General Downes for the present at his own request, until after an informal conference between him and the captains to be held on Saturday. From what can be gathered there is little or no chance of the captains withdrawing their resignations.

The Acting-General, Mr. Holden, believes that the matter can be amicably settled without the captains resigning. He could not see that the captains had any ground for feeling aggrieved. Mr. Blair was appointed Major of the militia, and he was senior to them, but while he was connected with the Volunteers, the matter did not concern the militia. On taking a senior commission in the militia, however, all the captains were much aggrieved, and have forwarded their resignations to one of the colonels. The resignations have been held back by Major-General Downes for the present at his own request, until after an informal conference between him and the captains to be held on Saturday. From what can be gathered there is little or no chance of the captains withdrawing their resignations.

THE ESCAPES FROM NEW CALDONIA.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BRISBANE, THURSDAY.

Six of the (in New Caldonia) escapes now in the Brisbane Gaol were brought before the magistrate at the gaol office, and were ordered to be handed over to the French authorities. One of these, Thomas Besant, who was sentenced in 1884 to 20 years' penal servitude for burglary, has escaped four times from a penal settlement. Another, Thomas Besant, who was sentenced in 1884 to 20 years' penal servitude for burglary, has escaped four times from a penal settlement. Another, Thomas Besant, who was sentenced in 1884 to 20 years' penal servitude for burglary, has escaped four times from a penal settlement. Another, Thomas Besant, who was sentenced in 1884 to 20 years' penal servitude for burglary, has escaped four times from a penal settlement.

INTENSE HEAT IN VICTORIA.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK THURSDAY.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, THURSDAY.

The Railway Department has received a telegram stating that bush fires destroyed several miles of fencing on the Mortlake line on Wednesday night. Today, the anniversary of Black Thursday, proved the hottest day of the season. At 5 o'clock the thermometer at the Observatory registered 103° in the shade. The average heat for January this year stands some 5 degrees higher than any month since the records have been kept, and is entirely without parallel in Australia. The barometer is now falling, and a south-west breeze is travelling up from the Portland district.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TEAM.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ADELPHIDE, THURSDAY.

The South Australian Cricket team to play against New South Wales left by the express to-day. They will stay at the Oxford Hotel.

INTERCOLONIAL NEWS.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.)

VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, THURSDAY.

The revenue received at the Treasury for January amounted to £201,200, being a decrease of £8957 on the corresponding month last year. The total revenue received from July 1 to January 31 was £5,163,541, the proportionate amount of the Treasury's estimate for the same period being £4,867,597.

A third match has been arranged between Captain Brewer and L. Clarke, to take place on Monday next at the Melbourne Gun Club Grounds.

QUEENSLAND.

BRISBANE, THURSDAY.

Parliament has been further prorogued to the 26th March.

The board of directors of the Metropolitan Tramway Company at a meeting to-day decided to obtain power to increase the capital to £500,000 by the creation of 70,000 new shares of £5 each by such issues as may be deemed advisable. The object is to substitute the cable system for horse traction. It is understood the Melbourne shareholders will arrange for the increased capital. Sales of transfer shares were made to-day at 38s. to 40s. 6d. for Melbourne buyers.

The sea has encroached so much on the site of the Camberly Lighthouse, Moreton Island, that it has been found necessary to remove the lighthouse 200ft. further back. Steps are being taken to have this done as soon as possible.

Rain is more or less general throughout the colony. The heaviest is in the North. Part of the Cootamundra railway line has been washed away, and traffic temporarily suspended. It has been raining steadily here all the evening.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ADELPHIDE, THURSDAY.

The R.M.S. *Shannon* arrived from London shortly after 4 o'clock this afternoon. The mails were forwarded by rail to-day at 5.30 p.m. Communication on all the main lines, with the exception of the Great Northern, which was damaged by the late floods, has been restored.

On Wednesday afternoon a man named Perry, an employee of Mr. A. H. Lindner, of Milngavie, received a number of blows from a woman named Mrs. Moore

Books, Publications, &c.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

MOSSMAN'S BAY.—To LET or for SALE, a gentleman's Residence, drawing and dining room

NEW HOUSE, Corner-street, Paddock-rooms, wash-house, good yard, plenty of water; rent low.

OFFICES to LET, Kidman & shop, Octagon-street, E. Mill's, 111, George-street.

OFFICES, singly or in bulk. A. J. Burtner and Co., 482-6, or 506 and 508, George-street.

OFFICES, ground floor, ample space, withouthouse, 60 Margaret-st. Leamington.

OFFICES to LET on ground floor. A.P.
Jeweller, 382, George-street, near G. R.

OFFICES or Workrooms. - To LET, 4 L.
suitable as above, low rent. 623, George-st.

PADDINGTON, near tram, 4-roomed b.
10s.; also 6 rooms, bath, copper, 14s. Apply

PADDINGTON, Woolliath. - Houses, 1
16s, 20s, 22s 6d, 23s, 30s. Webster, 52, Oxford

PADDINGTON. - HOUSES, all sizes.
Cahill, 36, Queen-street, Woolliath.

PETERSHAM. - To LET, AUDLEY,

REDUCED RENTS.—SHOPS, ROOMS, &c., with bath, sewerage, large yard, right of way, &c., for sale or lease, at a reduced price, on the corner of Elizabeth and Centre streets, near the depot. Apply to J. B. Hixson, at the corner of Elizabeth and Centre streets.

REWARD, Bishop's-avenue E. Bldg.
near Waverly tram terminus - VILLA RICHARDSON
containing drawing and dining rooms, folding d-
cor-room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, ser-
vants' washhouse, &c., large paddock, with or without
fence. Also, COTTAGE, containing five rooms,
washhouse, bathroom, &c. Apply on the premises
and to-morrow, between 8 and 9.

SHOP, Dwelling, and Offices, 80, Hunt-
rent £5. Key at Mr. Sabell's, chemist, near
Waverly tram terminus.

SHOP, 173, George-street West, to suit
bakery and stable attach'd, 50s.

TALE, PRIMER, Red Sea, Wm. A. C. S.

TORE and Workshop to LET, suit-
able, 200, at 623, George street, Hav-
ing a bath, gas, every conv. Apply 15, Marl-
borough-street, city.

STRATHFIELD, The Binglewood—
HOUSE, 8 rooms, kitchen, and all usual con-
veniences, and about 1/2 acre. Keys at Mr. Steele's, fruit
shop, 1110. DUNS and M'KEOWN, 16, Elizabeth-street.

SUMMER HILL.—To Let, Residence,
kitchen, outbuildings, land 50 x 340, only 3 m.
from the city, adjoining Messrs. Strath's beautiful grounds.
Moderate. Collin's Agency, at Summer Hill Station.

SURRY HILLS.—HOUSE, No. 43, L.
street, near Crown-street. Particulars at pre-
sents of FRANKER and
359, George-street.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

HOTEL METROPOLE BUILDINGS.
suitable Chemists, Tobacconist, Fruiterer and Fishmonger.

Apply on Premises,
corner of Young, Bent, and Phillip street.

TO LET, SHOP and House, Pitt-street
next Mr. Box, baker. Key next door.

TO LET, Furnishd Houses and Cottages
Manly, Coogee, and all suburbs. G. Thomas, 5,
Phillip-street.

TO LET, small HOUSE, rent 7s per week
87, Bourke-st., Woolloomooloo.

TO LET SHOP, suit drainer, dreamaker

NO LET. SHOP, 4 rooms, kitchen, & bath.
Market-street West. Apply chairman, next street
NO LET, 4-roomed HOUSE, Gas-street, 6
et. North. Apply Mr. Fitzgerald (6) next street
NO LET. CLIFTON, 60, Downing-street, 5
Park, 8 rooms, &c. Apply on premises
NO LET, 27, Waddington-st., 5 rooms.
every convenience, harbour view. Apply 23, Paddis-
O'LEARY, Shop and Dwelling, 298, Pitt-street, 5
Bathurst-street, and moderate
NO LET, 27, Waddington-st., 5 rooms.

O LET, 6-room HOUSE, 71, Surrey
 Impghurst, C. A. Jones, agent, Darlington, &
 O LET, SHOP, suit jeweller, &c., 364, E.
 street, cheap rent. 332, Cleveland-street
 O LET, SHOP, with Dwelling, suit any
 436, Elizabeth-st., Strawberry H. Is. 332, C.
 O ELVE-ST: L. STABLE, large yard, in
 town station, to LET, T. Phillips, 194, King-
 O LET, LUGGAGE BOXES, close to Moore-
 W. Hickson, Rokeade P. O.
 O LET, HOUSE, 6 rooms, kitchen, bath, &
 3 bedrooms, 3 rooms, 3 baths, 3 bedrooms, 3

TO LET. Balmate-road, Leichhardt, HO
rooms, bath, washhouse, good stabling, electric
tram, rent £1 per week. Apply H. MANN,
L.P.O.

TO LET. 3 commodious and well-lighted O
with 2 strong rooms included on ground fl
chambers, Pitt-street, suitable for a firm of solicitors
BULLEN, Junr, Herald Office, Hunter-street.

TO LET. Cottage DWELLING and la
known as Swatling's Forge, No. 176 and 17
ough-street. Apply

NATIONAL BUILDING Co., Limited, 250

TO LET, old-established **DRAPER SHOP**,
fittings, and dwelling, best position in
Hard. Also **CHEMIST** shop with fittings, and
best pos. in Norton-st. Apply 130, Norton-st.,
TO LET, large **YARD and BUILDING**,
189, Castleough-street, near Park-street,
Kerridge's Coach Factory. Apply
NATIONAL BUILDING CO.
250, P...

AVERLEY.—No 5, Lawson-ter.,
close R.R., & rooms, com. bath, 1½. Rent

WYVERLEY.—Gent.'s Residences. C
 Oatley and Cahill, 30, Queen-street, Wool-
WYVERLEY.—HOUSES, all sizes. C
 Cahill, 30, Queen-street, Woolahra.
WYOLLAHRA.—RESIDENCES of a
 description. Oatley and Cahill, 30, Queen-st.,
WYOLLAHRA.—Residence, 9 rooms,
 year. Oatley and Cahill, 30, Queen-st., W.
WYOLLAHRA. Queen-st.—SHOP to
 9 years as stationery, &c. H. Dorhauser, G.
WYOLLAHRA. Spicer-st.—4 rooms, kit-

OLLAHRA—Residence, 8 rooms, 10 months. Oatley and Cahill, 36, Queen-st., Victoria.

OLLAHRA—Residence, 7 rooms, 3 months, 2 1/2 ad. Oatley and Cahill, Woodhouse-st., Victoria.

OLLAHRA—House, 3 rooms, kitchen and 2 1/2 ad. Oatley and Cahill, 36, Queen-st., Victoria.

AYERLEY, 1 motorist from train.—A furnished HOUSE, with stable and paddock and large paddock; rent, \$3 10s per week inclusive of all expenses. Apply to J. COLE and CO., 506 and 508, George-street.

OLLAHRA—A well-built Family

WOOLLAHRA.—VILLA RESIDENCE, 6 rooms, completed, 3 rooms and outflows, all modern; also GALLEY and CUPBLL, Auctioneers, 80, Sydney street, Woollahra, and 10, Elizabeth-street, Sydney.

WOOLLAHRA.—HOUSES, 6 rooms, w.m., copper, gas, bath, and water, garden, house near bus, 25, GALLEY and CAHILL, Sydney, Woollahra, and Elizabeth-street, Sydney.

EASTERN SUBURBS, occupying an

position, Gentleman's RESIDENCE, 10 minutes from tram.
TO LET, FURNISHED, FOR 3 YEARS, a complete accommodation, coachhouse, stabling, terrace, fruit garden, every convenience, grassed paddock moderate.
E. J. SIEVERS and
105, PRINCE STREET, SYDNEY

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